

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19, 1923.

The Board of Public Works met at the office of the Board of Public Works, Union Trust Building, Baltimore, on Wednesday, September 19, 1923.

Present:

Albert C. Ritchie, Governor
 William S. Gordy, Jr., Comptroller
 John M. Dennis, Treasurer

The minutes of the meeting of August 30, 1923, were read and approved.

The following letter was submitted to the Board:

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
COLLEGE PARK

Office of the President

September 19, 1923

Board of Public Works,
 Baltimore, Md.

Gentlemen:

The General Construction Loan of 1922 contains for the University of Maryland an item of \$142,000 for the construction of a gymnasium-armory and stadium. Competitive bids resulted in the contract being awarded to the Watts Construction Company for \$131,585, which was about \$20,000 below the next lowest bidder. The usual type of bond approved by the Attorney-General was accepted from the Fidelity and Casualty Company of New York.

The mechanical equipment and the stadium fence were let as separate contracts by the University and these, with the architects' and engineers' fees provided for the utilization of the total appropriation of \$142,000.

The stadium, including the fence, is practically completed, and the gymnasium-armory about ninety per-cent. On account of the financial difficulties of the contractor for the building, the University, on advice of the Attorney-General's Office, has been paying bills on certificate of the architects up to the 10% reserve on the \$131,585. required to be retained. When this point was reached the contractor being unable to finance the continuance of the work, the bondsmen were notified to take it over and complete the job. This they refused to do.

The walls of the building were not quite completed, the roof was not on and much of the concrete and stucco work only partially completed. The danger of serious damage to the work completed by leaving it exposed to the elements led the University, upon the advice of the Attorney-General's Office, to take over the work and complete it according to the contract, and then proceed against the bonding company for the cost of completion. This will exceed the amount of the Watts' bid by about \$13,000.

In the interest of protection of public property under these emergency conditions, in order to finance the completion of the work we request authority to use such balance as is available from the item of lighting grounds and fixing roads, which is about \$3,500, and we also request that an additional amount of \$10,000 be allotted from any funds available to the Board of Public Works for the completion of the project under the conditions above mentioned. It is understood that any money obtained in the suit above mentioned will be turned over to the Board of Public Works.

It is believed that with the \$13,500 we will be able to complete the work in approximately thirty days. There are no balances available from other items. The balances available under item of \$142,000 are covered by liabilities already incurred which have not yet been paid. An itemized statement of the account is available at any time desired by the Board of Public Works.

Very truly,

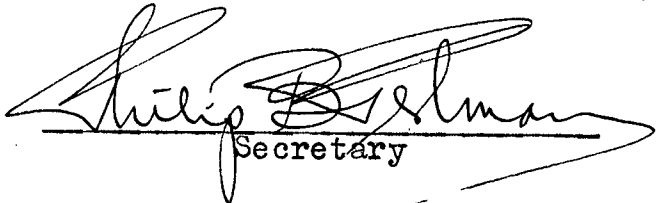
(Signed) A. F. Woods
President

After consideration of the above letter the Board authorized the expenditure of funds to complete the contract referred to therein, and the Secretary of the Board of Public Works was directed to issue a check to the University of Maryland for the sum of \$10,000 out of the accruals of interest in the hands of the Board of Public Works from the proceeds of the sale of bonds under Chapter 464 of the Acts of 1922, the same being the Construction Loan of 1922. It was understood that the University of Maryland would complete contract with the \$10,000 advanced by the Board of Public Works and would reimburse the Board of Public Works just as soon as the University is able to collect from the bonding company on account of the default of the contractor.

The Board considered a proposition to lease the unoccupied portion of the lot owned by the state at Maryland and North Avenues to Robert F. Kaehler, 325 Park Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland, at a rental of \$100.00 per month, the lot to be used by Mr. Kaehler as a clearing house for the sale of used motor vehicles. General Milton A. Record sent a letter to the Board recommending the acceptance of Mr. Kaehler's proposition, provided that the lease contained a clause that Mr. Kaehler would vacate the premises upon thirty days notice, and leave the same in good order and condition. The Secretary was directed to request the Attorney General to prepare a lease according to the terms outlined.

The Secretary announced that, having been appointed City Solicitor of Baltimore, he intended to resign as Secretary of State and as Secretary of the Board of Public Works, as of October 1, 1923. The Board thereupon unanimously elected Mrs. Katharine Ways to be the Secretary of the Board of Public Works from and after October 1, 1923.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.


Secretary